

REMARKS

Applicant's gratefully acknowledge the indication in the Official Action that Claims 26 to 28 and 51 to 53 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form (pg. 4, para. 11 of the Official Action).

According to the Official Action, the specification refers to the amino sequence "GGGGS" numerous times without employing the required sequence identifier. Submitted herewith is a substitute sequence listing which includes the "GGGGS" sequence. The specification has also been amended to refer to the sequence where appropriate.

Claims 6 to 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. While we do not agree with the rejection, Claims 6-8 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer in order to expedite prosecution. Claims 48-50, which depend from Claims 6-8, respectively, have also been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 1, 6-10, 13, 15, 18, 24, 25, 29, 48 to 50 and 54 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,342,345 B1 to Blau et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,891,646 to Barak et al., the Kovoov et al. publication (J. Biol, Chem. 274(11):6831-6834, 12 Mar. 1999), the Gurevich et al. '95 publication (L Biol, Chem, 270(2):720-731, 13 Jan. 1995), and the Gurevich et al. '97 publication (MOI, Pharm, 51:161-169, 1997) for the reasons previously made of record.

Claim 1 as amended includes the limitation of Claim 26 and Claim 9 as amended includes the limitation of Claim 51. As set forth above, Claims 26 and 51 have been indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that these amendments obviate the rejections of independent Claims 1 and 9 as well as any claims dependent thereon (*i.e.*, Claims 10, 13, 15, 18, 24, 25, 29 and 54).

Non-elected Claims 11, 12, 16, 17 and 19-23 have previously been withdrawn as being drawn to non-elected species (See pg. 2, para. 6 of the Official Action). However, each of these claims depends either directly or indirectly from either of Claim 1 or Claim 9. As set forth above, Claims 1 and 9 are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that Claims 11, 12, 16, 17 and 19-23 should also be allowed. See MPEP §809.02(c).

CONCLUSION

All rejections having been addressed by the present amendments and response, Applicants believe that the present case is in condition for allowance and respectfully request early notice to that effect. If, however, any issues remain to be addressed in this matter which might be resolved by discussion, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicants' undersigned counsel at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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